

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 OIC-02 L-03

AID-05 /097 W

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R 271613Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6006

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR, OCON

SUBJ: FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT

FODAG

REF: (A) ROME 2534, (B) STATE 044657, (C) OECD PARIS 5718.

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED REFTEL B WITH FORSODY, SECRETARY OF FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP (IG) ON MEAT. HE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF COMMENTS AND ASSURED US THAT THOUGH FAO MEAT GUIDELINES EXTEND BEYOND FAO'S USUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, FAO WOULD RESPECT GATT VENUE AND WAS AWARE OF ITS SPECIAL LEGAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

2. PARA 2 REFTEL B RAISED MORE DIFFICULTY WITH FAO. FIRST, DIE HAS BEEN CAST BY ARGENTINE CHAIRMAN OF FAO IG ON MEAT FALDINI WHO SENT OUT LETTER QUOTED IN PARA 5 BELOW. LETTER ITSELF IS CONTROVERSIAL ON RIGHTS OF FAO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO DISTRIBUTE LETTERS AND FAO HAS NOT DECIDED HOW IT WILL PREPARE REQUESTED INTERIM REPORT IN MAY 1976 OR HOW MEMBER STATES MAY COOPERATE IN REPORT. SPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO FAO IS FALDINI'S DESIRE TO HAVE
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PERSONAL ASSESSMENTS OF THE MEAT SITUATION ANNEXED TO INTERIM

REPORT.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER ARGUED FOR USE OF OECD APRIL MEAT REPORT, PARA 2 REFTEL B, BUT BORSODY INDICATED THAT THAT WOULD NOT WORK. OECD REPORTS ARE RESTRICTED. HE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FINAL NOVEMBER OECD MEAT REPORT. AS HE UNDERSTANDS SITUATION OECD WORKING PARTY ON MEAT CANNOT RELEASE THEIR REPORT UNTIL IT IS AT LEAST APPROVED BY OECD AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE AND THAT WOULD BE TOO LATE FOR USE AS BASIS OF FAO SPECIAL MID-SEASON ASSESSMENT TO BE CIRCULATED IN MAY 1976 ACCORDING TO FALDINI'S LETTER.

4. FOR OECD PARIS: WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION ON RELEASE OF OECD DOCUMENTS AND IF POSSIBLE WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF FINAL OECD WORKING PARTY REPORT ON MEAT SITUATION. BORSODY WILL BE ATTENDING APRIL OECD MEAT MEETING. REFERENCE IN STATE 044657 TO ROME 1534 SHOULD HAVE READ ROME 2534 WHICH WAS ADDRESSED INFO OECD PARIS AND US MISSION GENEVA, SEE REFTEL C.

5. FALDINI LETTER OF FEBRUARY 20, 1976, TO ALL MEMBERS OF FAO IG ON MEAT FOLLOWS. QUOTE: DEAR COLLEAGUE,

THE WORLD MEAT SITUATION, AS YOU WELL KNOW, CONTINUES TO BE MARKED BY VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, ARISING PRIMARILY FROM CONTINUING IMBALANCES BETWEEN SUPPLIES AND DEMAND AS WELL AS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN MAJOR MARKETS. RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT: PRICES HAVE RISEN MODERATELY AND A NUMBER OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES ARE TAKING CERTAIN MEASURES WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO BETTER TRADING CONDITIONS; THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE THAT EXPANSION IN CATTLE NUMBERS AND BEEF PRODUCTION HAS PASSED ITS PEAK IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT TRADING COUNTRIES WHICH COULD GIVE SUPPORT FOR A FURTHER RISE IN LIVES-STOCK AND MEAT PRICES. NONETHELESS, IN MY VIEW, THE MARKET SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL, PARTICULARLY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE MEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND THERE IS CONTINUING NEED TO FOLLOW IT CLOSELY SO AS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGES NOW TAKING PLACE AND TO IDENTIFY THOSE INITIATIVES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO SUSTAIN TRENDS FAVORING A REVIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE.

WITH THIS CONSIDERATION IN MIND, I DISCUSSED WITH FAO AUTHORITIES THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEAT GROUP. HOWEVER, IT WAS EXPLAINED TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CONVENE AN UNSCHEDULED SESSION AT THE PRESENT TIME, FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FAO CONFERENCE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD BY FAO. AS AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF KEEPING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEAT MARKET UNDER CLOSE REVIEW I HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARIAT UNDERTAKING A SPECIAL "MID-SEASON" ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD MEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK WHICH COULD BE FINALIZED AND CIRCULATED

QUICKLY TO MEMBER COUNTRIES IN MAY 1976. THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE GROUP COULD THEN BE HELD IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER, DATES WHICH I BELIEVE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND ACCEPTABLE TO MOST MEMBER COUNTRIES.

TAKING ALL THE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, I HAVE REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO UNDERTAKE AND MAKE AVAILABLE A SPECIAL REVIEW AIMING TO ANALYSE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES IN POLICIES INFLUENCING THE MEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK. I AM SURE YOU WILL COOPERATE WITH THE SECRETARIAT IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD PROVIDE YOUR OWN CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE MEAT SITUATION.
SIGNED - J.D. FALDINI. END QUOTE. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEATS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME03216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760076-0871
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976025/aaaaadik.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 2534, 76 STATE 44657, 76 OECD PARIS 5718
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT FODAG
TAGS: EAGR, OCON, FAO
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006